



## **Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee**

### **Minutes**

Date: Apr 27th, 2022

Time: 7:15PM

Location: Via Zoom conference

Attendees:

*Executive committee:* Christopher Tonkin (chair), Jack Johnson, Muris Kobaslija, Adam MacNeill, Doug Mayo-Wells (secretary), Scott Smith (TAC liaison)

*Town of Arlington:* Daniel Amstutz (Sr Transportation Planner)

*Members of the public:* Len Greenberg, Mark Halliday, Roderick Holland, Petru Sofio (youth member-at-large)

### **1. Greetings and introductions, ground rules for online meetings**

Christopher Tonkin advised that the meeting is held remotely related to COVID-19 measures adopted during the State of Emergency. Tonkin notified attendees that Committee secretary Doug Mayo-Wells is taking minutes; the meeting is being recorded for the purposes of verifying the minutes; and the recording will be deleted after the minutes are approved. Tonkin confirmed the committee members and others in attendance for the meeting.

### **2. Reappointment of Executive Board members**

No update yet.

### **3. Approval of the outstanding minutes for previous meetings**

Scott Smith moves to accept minutes from March 2022

Christopher Tonkin seconds; roll call vote is taken

Motion carries, none opposed

#### 4. Bluebikes latest update on Warrant article

Adam MacNeill advises that the Bluebikes warrant article was pulled from the consent agenda (list of articles that are not expected to have substantial debate; voted on the first day of Town Meeting), so there will be some discussion. Nearly half of the articles on the consent agenda were removed from it.

Daniel Amstutz mentions that the Bluebikes article is #60 on agenda, so will not come up soon. The Planning Department will make a presentation explaining the arguments in favor of the proposal, similar to what was presented to the Finance committee. The Finance committee recommended funding Bluebikes after substantial discussion.

Adam MacNeill confirms that the warrant article needs a simple majority to pass.

#### 5. Report from COBWEB Officer

Not present

#### 6. TAC (Transportation Advisory Committee) report

Scott Smith updates on planning projects:

Bluebikes survey is open for a few more days; last public meeting in June.

Stantec has been hired for Mass Ave/Appleton and Chestnut St projects. Chestnut St corridor work will likely be slated for construction in 2024.

Working on an update to Complete Streets prioritization plan.

Daniel Amstutz, Phil Goff (Everywhere Arlington Livable Streets (EALS)), Scott Smith and Petru Sofio (ABAC youth member-at-large) are reviewing the bike design matrix. Will be discussing suggestions from Petru on May 19.

#### 7. Dooring incident at Town Hall

Petru Sofio reviews the concerns:

The school is no longer accessible from the bikeway since the entrance moved in February as part of the construction, so students are forced to use Mass Ave until the bikeway ramp opens (currently slated for 2025). Shared lane markings direct cyclists to ride in the "door zone."

A student was doored, sustaining minor injuries, and damage both to bicycle and laptop. The driver was dismissive and departed the scene before the student could take a plate number.

The situation is unsafe and should be remediated in the short term.

Scott Smith clarifies that this concern has been raised previously. The shared lane markings westbound meet MUTCD (Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices) standards, but only barely. Shared lane markings eastbound are not in compliance. Should try to get these applied to the center of the lanes in the current pavement painting season. Green-backed sharrows should be applied if possible, but not at the cost of further delay.

Petru Sofio notes that sharrows between Pleasant St. and Swan Pl, have also not been applied. "Bikes may use full lane" signage would also be beneficial.

Jack Johnson comments that the bike lane road surface was not restored to prior condition following utility work.

Petru Sofio affirms that this project did not meet NACTO (National Association of City Transportation Officials) standards, which specify that the entire bike lane should be trenched when maintenance is done on the bike lane. The same problem exists in Arlington Heights eastbound. Since bike lanes have not been re-striped, the bike lane is effectively gone.

Petru Sofio emphasizes the hazard westbound in front of the high school, where the risks of riding in the "door zone" are compounded by pickup/dropoff activity. There are also instances of vehicles parking all day despite 2-hour zone restrictions. He and Phil Goff have mocked up a proposal with 2 alternatives for parking-protected bike lanes which may be possible with quick-build materials; happy to share the plan on request. Belmont's Select Board recently passed a separated, parking-protected bike lane in front of Belmont High School; Arlington should follow suit.

Daniel Amstutz mentions that concerns about the bike lane in front of the school have also been raised to TAC. The traffic impact study for the school suggests that the center turn lane is not heavily used and could likely be removed. Concerns have also been shared with Superintendent Homan. May be helpful to raise with the High School Building Committee. Support from EALS or others to advocate for it would be welcome.

Petru suggests that student advocacy may also be helpful.

## 8. Tour of Arlington Town Day for 2022. Combine?

Town Day is scheduled for Sat. Sep 17. Since we were moving the tour of Arlington to avoid conflict with the Charlie Proctor memorial ride on May 29, would we potentially want to combine our ride with Town Day, concluding in Arlington Center? There is some concern about the health risks of staffing a booth in close proximity to a large variety of people.

Scott Smith suggests that TAC and ABAC could potentially share one booth.

Jack Johnson observes that staffing both a both and a ride on the same day would be challenging since both draw on the same pool of volunteers.

Muris Kobaslija suggests that a booth could be a good opportunity to educate residents on recent initiatives they may not be aware of, and raises a concern that logistics for concluding a ride in Arlington Center on Town Day would be complicated by crowds.

Adam MacNeill asks if we should reach out to local businesses to see if they want to fund giveaways, e.g., helmets, lights.

Christopher Tonkin confirms that ABAC still has a substantial quantity of children's helmets. The Planning Department may have done that outreach originally.

## 9. ABAC funds use or lose. Come with spending ideas

ABAC has \$3,000 which was donated with the intent of furthering bike education. Some of this money was used to purchase bicycle books and resources for Robbins library. If the remaining funds are not used by the end of the fiscal year (end of June), the Town may reclaim them.

Concepts proposed include sponsoring a Bluebike, a bike rodeo event with Gibbs school or another school, banking the money with MassBike against a future education event, donating to the Charlie Proctor memorial fund, public art, (e.g., mural under bridges on the Bikeway), installing bike parking (or portable bike racks for use at events). Petru Sofio mentions that bike parking at Arlington High School is not adequate to meet the demand, so that could be a candidate.

The question is raised of whether ABAC could potentially maintain a separate account for these funds (since they were never part of the Town budget).

Christopher Tonkin moves to authorize a working group to evaluate options for using the funds and make recommendations to the committee.

Adam MacNeill seconds the motion.

Motion carries, none opposed.

## 10. Move the June meeting

Christopher Tonkin informs the committee that Adam MacNeill had requested the June meeting be moved from the 15th to the 22nd, however Daniel Amstutz is unable to attend on the 22nd. Meeting will remain on June 15th as originally scheduled.

Christopher Tonkin will reach out to Adam to solicit any comment on the agenda prior to the meeting.

## 11. Lowell Bike Connector used bike collection at the DPW on April 30

Bikes are being collected for the Lowell Bike connector ([bikeconnector.org](http://bikeconnector.org)). ABAC will promote the event by email.

## 12. Trash pick-up on the Bikeway. Report

Event was canceled because there was little trash to pick up. Possibly some other group had a cleanup event? One exception, there was refuse on the slope behind Trader Joe's. This has been called to the business's attention; we may want to thank the business if they are responsive to the request.

EALS did some trash pickup along the recently completed Watertown trail and removed large quantities of rubbish (had not had a cleaning event there before).

## 13. Development of new rubric for road markings, bike lanes with and without protection. Progress?

Covered above under TAC report.

## 14. Bikeway book -- a suggestion from Lauren, Arlington or Tri Town, anyone want to head this one up?

Nothing new to report

## 15. General updates not from Daniel:

- a. Minuteman Bikeway Planning Project update

Wrapping up

b. Mystic River to Bikeway Feasibility Study update

Next public meeting June 22 – may be beneficial for ABAC members to attend

c. Other updates

Nothing new to report

## 16. Tales from the Bikeway, matters arising from the Bikeway

Nothing new to report

## 17. Tracking “Scary Moments” as in Cambridge. Add a site to ABAC’s

See: <https://www.cambridgebikesafety.org/2018/01/21/scary-moments-project>

and

<http://thecreativeexchange.org/projects/near-miss-project.html>

Doug Mayo-Wells sent Christopher Tonkin a proposal to collect information on crashes/near misses using Google forms. This would not display submitted data on a site (as the Cambridge site does) but would enable the Town to collect data/identify particular areas of concern. This would require very little development effort, but would not provide a map-based interface (people would have to enter nearest cross streets manually).

Action item: Christopher Tonkin and Doug Mayo-Wells will discuss/refine the proposal.

## 18. Tri-Town meeting debrief

Arlington will host the next meeting (tentatively June)

Christopher Tonkin has forwarded to the general email list a message from Jim Cadenhead of the Lexington Bicycle Advisory Committee, raising 4 points:

- a. Consistent signage on the bikeway. Lexington received CPA (Community Preservation Act) funding to install mile markers, safety signage, and kiosks.
- b. A potential website to coordinate Bikeway events between Arlington, Bedford, and Lexington
- c. The potential for "bike ambassadors" on the Bikeway

- d. Organizing a Bikeway-centric day with events in parks (yoga, karate, dance, face-painting, etc.)

Re: "bike ambassadors," per Daniel Amstutz, APD (Arlington Police Department) has previously expressed concerns about activity which may have the appearance of enforcement that is not conducted by police.

## 19. Any other business

See: [https://www.massbike.org/cpmr\\_22](https://www.massbike.org/cpmr_22)

and

<https://www.thebedfordcitizen.org/2022/04/tough-ruck-on-april-16-and-ruck-and-ride-on-may-7/>

The Charlie Proctor memorial ride is upcoming (29 May). MassBike is soliciting 5 volunteers. Len Greenberg has volunteered, but not been confirmed. His wife is also available to volunteer. The ride is capped at 100 riders, and still has some openings. The start will be staggered so there is not one big clump of riders.

The "Battle Road Ruck and Ride" is scheduled for May 7. (A footrace event already took place on April 16)

Warrant Article 42 in Town Meeting proposes to change the zoning bylaw to make it easier to get permits for events in public and open spaces by removing the requirement to get a permit from the Redevelopment Board in addition to approval from either the Parks and Recreation Commission or the Select Board (depending on the ownership of the particular space). This doesn't affect the bikeway itself, but is relevant to any event held off the bikeway, such as the Bikeway-centric day proposed in Jim Cadenhead's letter discussed above.

The Bikeway Planning study is likely to recommend action items related to formalizing event planning related to the bikeway as well. It is noted that on a prior occasion the Town had no prior notice of a charity event with 4,000 participants walking through Town Center.

Cambridge is moving forward with bike lanes on Mass Ave in Porter Square, although there has been some opposition from local businesses and residents. Drivers are confused by signage for the North Cambridge bus lane, parking during rush hours etc. Changes to Porter Square should be made by the end of July, including bicycle traffic signals at Beech street and additional flex posts. On the east/south side of Porter

Square the median will be removed and floating parking will be installed, which mitigates parking loss, but increases the time needed to complete the project.

Belmont is striping parking-protected bike lanes on Concord Ave from Blanchard Road to Leonard Street (approved in 2-1 vote by Belmont Select Board)

Christopher Tonkin moves to adjourn

Muris Kobaslija seconds

Adjourned